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Local Agricultural Societies

REPLY TO A

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OF THE

CENTRAL BOARD.



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CIRCULAR.

HALIFAX, December 27th, 1825.

At a meeting of the Central Board held yesterday at which His Excellency the Governor presided, it was resolved that the sense of the different Local Societies be taken on the following queries, and that you be requested to convene the Members forthwith and report to me the general opinion expressed on these different topics. You will readily perceive that it is the wish of the Governor and Board to obtain all the information that may lead them to form a just opinion respecting the propriety of applying to the Legislature for a renewal of the Charter.

I am, Sir,

Your Most Obedt. Servant,
JOHN YOUNG, Secy.

QUERIES.

- 1st.—Whether and in what advantages have resulted to your Local Agriculture from the influence and operation of the Society?
- 2nd.—Please enumerate what improvements in your district have during the last seven years been introduced, or have there been none?
- 3rd.—Are all the objects, which such institutions are calculated to yield, already attained, or would it be desirable to continue the existence of the Societies for some years longer?
- 4th.—Will your Local Agriculture continue to advance if Legislative aid be withdrawn, and your members be disposed to associate together for Agricultural purposes, whether a vote of money be passed or not?
- 5th.—Do you consider it for the interest of the country that application be made for a renewal of the Charter at the first meeting of the Legislature?

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LETTERS.

Sydney, C. B. January 9th, 1826

DEAR SIR,

A meeting of the Agricultural Society in this place having been obtained as soon as possible after the receipt of your letter of the 27th ultimo, to consider the several questions then proposed, they were unanimously agreed in the expression of their sentiments, as follows. I am, dear Sir, your obedient servant,

H. W. CRAWLEY Secy

To John Young, Esq.

1st.—The amelioration produced in our local agriculture, by the influence of the society, is visible in an attention to the different modes of culture, and the increased industry of our farmers.

2d.—This society has not been in operation more than five years, during which time almost every improvement observable in the district, has taken place, viz.—the employment of lime, and various manures; the introduction of summer fallow; the use of the plough; superseeding that of the hoe; and a spirit of exertion among the cultivators; the desired effects of all which combined may be seen by a reference to the returns of premiums made every year to the central society; the number of competitors and quantity of produce in each year greatly exceeding those of the preceding seasons.

3d.—Although the objects of the society have made good progress in this district, yet they are by no means fully attained; and the activity of the people being excited, it is considered highly advisable that their exertions continue under the direction of the society some years longer.

4th.—It is presumed, the local agriculture will in some measure advance, with the usual and natural gradation of improvement in new country; but should Legislative aid be withdrawn, that progress would most probably receive a very undesirable check; as may be inferred from last year's experience, when exertion, being without the support of former years, appeared evidently to be slackened. The members of this society, however disposed to associate for the benefit of the country, could not command sufficient funds to render their intentions effective.

5th.—For the above mentioned reasons, and because this and other subordinate societies act under the direction of the Central Board, deriving instruction and profit from their experiments, we doubtless

consider it for the interest of the country that the agricultural character be renewed.

C. E. LEONARD, President,
H. W. CRAWLEY, Secretary.

DEAR SIR,

January 10th, 1826.

Your's of the 27th came to hand, and agreeably to your request the society were convened this day; and in answer to some of the queries contained in your note, I am directed to say, that many advantages have resulted to our local agriculture, from the influence and operation of the society.

1st.—Our method of ploughing has been greatly improved within the last seven years; even those who do not belong to the society have evidently profited by their example.

2d.—As to the manure, if few members who have tried lime, find it to be excellent with swamp mud or other manure; those who cannot conveniently come at the lime, have increased their manure in various ways, and a good number of acres per year more than formerly have been put under crop; and the result has been that some towns of meat and flour have been sent annually to market for two or three years past; in lieu of bringing waggon loads of it to the country.

3d.—The encouragement given for clearing new lands, stamping and ploughing, for draining, and raising the greatest crops, and last, but not least, the drainage have contributed greatly to promote the interest of the country; yet though much has been done by the liberal aid of the Legislature, and the co-operation and advice of the Central Board, to advance our agricultural interest, which remains yet to be done, our funds are not sufficient to procure a proper change of sheep and cattle, and other necessary improvements; and though the institution is good, I fear the existence of some of the new formed societies depends in a great measure on the support and encouragement they may receive some years longer.

I am to intimate to you, Sir, the grateful sentiment of this society to his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor and the Central Board, for their activity and zeal in the cause; and to request that application be made for a renewal of the Charter at the first meeting of the Legislature.

I am, dear Sir, your most obdt. servant,
DAVID ARCHIBALD, Secretary.

Sir,

January 11th, 1826.

At a Quarterly Meeting of the Hants' Agricultural Society held at Newport, on Saturday the 5th. instant, I said before their

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your letter of the 27th of the last month, with the Queries there-
to annexed, to which it was unanimously resolved the following
answers should be returned, and which I am directed by the So-
ciety to communicate to you for the information of the Central
Board.

1st. The Society are of opinion that considerable advantages
have resulted to their local Agriculture from the operation and
influence of the Provincial Society — by rendering the art and
occupation of a farmer more popular and respectable, than it had
previously been, by turning the attention of Agriculturists to the
different qualities of Soils and their capabilities, all which have
led to an improved system of Farming generally, and increased
the products of their lands under cultivation.

2nd. The improvements introduced within the last seven
years in this district, are principally the cultivation of greater
quantities of land than had previously been; an increased atten-
tion to the methods of plowing and harrowing, by which the soil
has been better prepared for the reception of the seed; the in-
troduction of better implements of husbandry; greater care in the
extirpation of Weeds, and in the preparation of land for Grain, by
the drill husbandry. — The making Composts, and a more exten-
sive application of Manures, by which larger quantities of Grain
and Vegetables have been grown than formerly.

3rd. The Society are of opinion that all the objects of the in-
stitution are by no means obtained, and that it would be highly de-
sirable to continue the existence of the Provincial Agricultural
Society for some years to come.

4th. The Society are of opinion that the Local Agriculture
would advance, even if Legislative aid were withdrawn, though
not in the same proportion, and that their members would conti-
nue to associate themselves for Agricultural purposes, but that the
withdrawing Legislative aid, with the patronage and support of the
parent Society, would have a tendency to check their progress and
enfeeble their exertions.

5th. The Society are decidedly of opinion that it would be for
the interests of the Country, that the Charter of the Provincial
Agricultural Society should be renewed, as soon as the present
one expires, under such modifications as the Legislature may
deem advisable.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedt Servant,

JOHN ELDER, Secretary.

Piston, January 11th, 1826.

On having met and taken your letter into considera-

tion, have thought proper to return the following answers to the queries therein proposed.—

Our society was formed in January 1817, and it extends a year farther back than the questions proposed.

We can say with freedom, in answer to the first two questions that our society has been the means of introducing several improvements into the agriculture of the district; among others our fields are far better ploughed and better managed in other respects,—we gather more manure and husband it better—we have paid attention to the improvement of our seed-wheat, both in kind and manner of preparing it for sowing—and pay more attention to our stock, both as to kind and manner of managing it. In answer to the third question, we remark, that all of the objects we had in view, when we formed our society, are not attained, nor do we expect to see them fully attained. We consider agriculture both as a science and an art capable of progressing for an indefinite time, and therefore we resolve to continue.

We consider the fourth question partly answered above, but our progress might be greatly accelerated by legislative aid judiciously applied.

In answer to the fifth we can say nothing, as we never saw the charter; but we are of opinion, that a grant of money to the different societies might be of great service, and enable them to attain objects which they cannot without it.

By order of the Society,

EBENEZER MC'LEOD Secy.

True, January 12th, 1828.

Answers to the Queries proposed in a letter from the Secretary of the Central Board dated Decr. 27th 1825.

QUEST 1st. There have numerous advantages resulted to our Local Agriculture from the influence and operation of the Society viz.

A spirit of industry and emulation has been excited throughout the Society generally; and the younger branches of it, particularly, now perform the labour in a more scientific manner.—

The Agricultural profession has emerged from its once degraded situation, and now begins to assume a more respectable character.

Experiments have also been made some of which have proved extremely beneficial.

COMPOSTS.—These have been introduced and the quantity of Manure greatly augmented thereby—and although Marsh Mud, had previously been tried by a few individuals, it has now come into general use, wherever it can be obtained without too much expence.

LIME.—This is now applied in considerable quantities with much success.

ASRES... This valuable Manure was formerly wasted as if it were an article of no consequence, but is now saved by many with the greatest economy.

Ploughing... The greatest improvement is manifest in this important branch of Agriculture; and this district can now proudly boast that many of its natives will not shrink from contesting for the prize with professed ploughmen from the Mother Country.

SUMMER FALLOW... This has been attempted in various instances, but does not appear to be generally approved of.

ENCLOSING UP OF NEW LAND... The encouragement held out by the Society, for this department of rural economy has been the means of reclaiming many acres from a barren state, and converting them into productive and beautiful enclosures.

DRAINAGE... Considerable quantities of Wet Lands have been Drained, and those places which a few years since, to the Farmer were a perfect nuisance, are now the most profitable part of his Estate.

FENCING... Dykes and Hedges have been introduced in several parts of the district, and bid fair to become substantial and permanent fences.

ROTATION OF CROPS... It is generally admitted that this mode of Culture answers the best of purposes, and the practice now prevails.

OAT MILLS... Many have been the advantages derived from the encouragement given for the erection of Oat Mills; these the Society consider to be of the highest importance to the Country, and a great step towards leading the Nova Scotia Farmer to a state of independence.

MEAT CATTLE, SHEEP, SWINE... There is evidently an improvement in the breed, particularly as regards sheep and swine.

HUNTERS... No perceptible improvement has taken place in the breed of this valuable and useful animal, although several attempts have been made.

3rd... Notwithstanding this Society has made considerable advances in Agriculture, it remains still far short of that state of improvement which may, and ought to be acquired even in this new Country, and which would be much facilitated by a continuance of the Society.

4th. If Legislative aid be withdrawn, there is little doubt but the Society will soon languish and in time cease to exist.

5th... The answer to this query may be inferred from the foregoing viz. that a renewal of the charter would be very desirable, and the Society was fully of opinion that this is the only method which can be adopted to keep alive that agricultural spirit which now generally prevails throughout the Province.

E. S. BLANCHARD, Secretary.

Stewart, January 14, 1838

MY DEAR SIR,

In compliance with the request in your letter of Dec. 20th, I have called a meeting of the Agricultural Society, which was held yesterday. Your letter with its queries, was submitted to them, and after due deliberation and candid discussion, the substance of which you will find in the sequel, I am instructed to transmit to you, their report; as follows:

Our Oat Mill was first spoken of as an advantage both to town and country. It was one of the first in the country, and it is gratifying to find that the Stewart Oatmeal is reckoned among the best that is brought to the Halifax market. And perhaps a great deal according to the size of it sends more, none so much, and a great deal of it is made use of at home. And we may add, that a good deal of the Oatmeal sent from Musquodchuic has been sent by the Stewart Mill. Had not the proprietor of this mill had aid from the Central Board, he could not have erected such a Mill, and, as he himself acknowledged, nor for though an industrious and honest man of considerable enterprise, yet at that time his means were small, and the Public looked upon it rather as a matter of experiment, and the probability is, that this may have been a general case as to Oat Mills.

It was also observed that ever since the commencement of the Ploughing Matches, our ploughing had been conducted in a better style and that our young men are anxious to do their best.

It is a fact, that of late years, Manure has been more carefully preserved and increased in the way of compost. And whereas, in times past, this essential part of husbandry had been neglected, we think it but fair to attribute the recent improvement, partly to the writings of Agricola on the subject of manure, and partly to the premiums held out for the best crops on an acre, and the result has served to show what good soil under good cultivation, with an abundant supply of good manure, can be made to produce. Going on in this way from year to year, from acre to acre, the progress of exhaustion is prevented and the soil is renovated and enriched. The extending of the Prizes as we have done to new land as well as old land, and to half cleared land when broken up, we have found to operate as a general stimulus. Our fallow meetings have always been when we called for competitors. The unsuccessful still have a benefit in their better crop, and so, has the country. In the successful so far as it goes, it serves the same purpose as capital in which our farmers in general are greatly deficient.

This Society has attended to and aimed at the various objects pointed out and recommended by the Central Board, and found them beneficial—we admit the exception of Lime. Our Sister So-

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society in Musquidobit has tried it and found it beneficial; their Limestone is easy of access, and difficult. Thus with the high price of labour has been the bar in our way.

We beg leave to remind the Central Board, that this Society has never directly derived any benefit from their importation of stock—as Horses, Cattle and Sheep, by having any allotment of that kind. But as we understand that a large importation of Sheep is expected in the ensuing spring, we hope not to be forgotten in the distribution. We are particularly anxious for the improvement of our cattle and sheep.

We consider our Agriculture, as in a progressive state of improvement, yet still in its infancy. We need instruction and direction in the way of tuition, and also support and nutriment in the way of means. We have had the breast, and we have found it salutary and invigorating—we are not yet fit to be weaned. If left as a Society to stand upon our own legs, we are apprehensive that we shall stagger and fall. We, therefore, deprecate the dissolution of the bond of connexion between the Provincial Government and the Provincial Agricultural Society. We think that, as *Agriculturists* we support government in a primary and principal respect: Government ought therefore to support as in our proper characters, the right and interest being mutual—we speak for ourselves, at the same time we trust that we speak the general sentiment and wish. The Central Board will therefore count upon this Society as heartily and earnestly concurring with them in a Petition for a renewal of the Agricultural Charter.

SAMUEL TUPPER, *President*.
HUGH GRAHAM, *Secretary*.

Ankerst, January 28th. 1826.

SIR,

Your favour dated 27th December, was received by the Agricultural Society, which called for an answer to certain Queries, therein propounded. To the first query, I am desired to say that our Agriculture has been and is improved from the influence and operation of Agricultural Societies.

2nd.—Lime, Summer Fallow and Compost have been introduced and adopted with great success.

3rd.—It might be desirable to continue the existence of the Society for some years longer, as no doubt it would have a tendency to introduce more generally the adoption of the aforesaid objects and others.

4th.—It is considered that the members of the Society will not be disposed to associate for Agricultural purposes, as readily, without something given beyond private subscription.

5th.—It would be desirable for the general interest of the Pro-

vince that the Charter of the Provincial Agricultural Society should be renewed.

I remain, sir, your most, obdt. servant.

W. H. BENT Secy. C. A. Society.

To John Young, Esq.

Horton, January 28th, 1826.

Sir,
Your letter of the 27th December last, addressed to me as Secretary of the King's County Union Agricultural Society, was received on the 4th inst.; which being the day of the Annual Meeting of the Society, I immediately submitted to the consideration of its members the queries proposed by the Central Board. And the opinion of the Society being taken upon the several subjects contained in those queries was (without division) as follows:—

In the first place, that advantages had resulted to our local agriculture from the influence and operation of the Society. But the time of our Society having been occupied until a late hour, by the ordinary business of the day, a Committee was chosen for the purpose of pointing out those advantages, as well as others that might be anticipated from a continuation of Legislative assistance; and also, (in answer to the 2nd query) to enumerate improvements that have taken place, in this district during the last seven years: and I was instructed to form my answers as to those particulars upon such information as I might receive from the Gentlemen composing this Committee.

In answer to the 3d. query the Society was of opinion, that all the objects which such institutions are calculated to advance, have not been attained; and that it would be desirable to continue the existence of the Society some years longer.

Fourthly, that our local Agriculture would continue to advance without legislative aid; and that our members would in general be disposed to associate together for Agricultural purposes; but that the spirit of improvement would be better preserved, and our agricultural advances be more rapid should such aid be granted.

And lastly, it was the opinion of the Society, that it would be for the interests of this county, that application should be made for the renewal of the charter of the Provincial Society: either upon the original plan or with such modification as the Legislature might deem necessary.

I regret that it has not been in my power to have as much communication with the several members of the Committee appointed, as may be requisite to explain to me the before-mentioned Agricultural advantages and improvements, in such manner as to enable me to give a very full and circumstantial detail of them;

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January 28th, 1826.

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but such as have been stated to me, I shall endeavour to recapitulate as requested.

It has been represented to me by this committee, that during the last seven years an evident and progressive improvement has taken place, both in our estimation of the character of Agriculture, and in the manner of conducting its different branches. The interest that has been evinced by the most distinguished and distinguished characters, in conjunction with the various local publications upon this subject, and the attention which it has attracted by different means, has succeeded in causing the majority of those, who formerly looked upon the pursuit of husbandry as mere manual labour, to consider it at present as a scientific object of primary importance. And many have been induced to follow it with an industrious eagerness and perseverance highly creditable and serviceable to themselves and the community.

I have been further informed by the members of the Committee, that from this feeling fostered and supported as it has been by the Legislative aid so liberally and wisely bestowed, the best practical effects have resulted; many of which would not have been obtained but through some medium established by Legislative authority. And I have been instructed to state, that owing to the encouragement given by grants of money, many experiments and improvements have been made in the cultivation of the white and green crops in our districts, and the quantities and qualities of both greatly increased and made more valuable. That in consequence of the general spirit of inquiry and the particular writings upon the subject of manures, a great increase of that necessary article has taken place in the way of composts; and that the rich earth contained in our swamps and marshes has been brought into use in much larger quantities than formerly, for the purpose of manuring and fertilizing the lands of the farmer; who has been convinced both by reasoning and from practice, (the latter of which some would not have thought themselves of sufficient ability to carry into effect, but for the premiums offered,) that the ground well enriched in this way will, with due cultivation and attention, produce a return, far greater in proportion to the disbursements, than that which has been neglected and thinly covered with the sickly manure that the farm-yard may chance to afford.

Among other manifest improvements, I have been desired to notice the French drains, (the mode is by some termed close-drainings) which have of late been more commonly introduced; although their advantages are not yet as generally known, or as sufficiently appreciated as they ought to be.

The benefit arising from the erection of oatmills is now generally felt and acknowledged. The oatmeal is thought by many to be a good substitute for wheaten flour; and the manufacture of it far

the St. John and other markets has afforded satisfaction to the farmer, by enhancing the value of so certain a crop as that of oats.—The aid offered by the Legislature has also enabled us, in confidence that it will still be continued subject to any claims that may be made the present year, to look forward to the immediate erection of a Flax Mill; to ensure the completion of which, several members of this society have formed a company, an additional liberal bounty being offered from the funds of the society.

Great improvements have been made within the last seven years in the several breeds of horses, neat cattle and sheep. The latter, (from the Dishley, owned by our society) have met the most sanguine expectations, and are eagerly sought for; and the fine appearance and promise of the colts of the horse Wellington, added to the celebrity of the sire, will doubtless create a great demand for them upon their attaining the proper age.

It has also been stated to me, that the drill machinery introduced here has been found of very great advantage, and its use is becoming more general than formerly. The manner, likewise, of ploughing and its appearance and effects, have of late years attained a considerable degree of improvement.

I have been instructed to point out, that among other advantages too numerous to detail, whose attainment is thought highly desirable, (and which would without doubt be facilitated by Legislative aid) are those of the further introduction of farming machinery, and the extended importation of the best breeds of short-horned cattle and others, as also of a full blooded English stallion, or such other as by crossing our present improving breed may render it still better. It is also thought that such assistance as would forward and improve the manufacture of our home-made cloth and advance other branches of our domestic industry would be found highly advantageous; and that various other objects of great importance to our agricultural advancement, involving as it does the general prosperity and best interests of the country, would be effected by premiums properly bestowed in a consistent and systematic manner.

In conclusion, allow me to take this opportunity of making the return of the choice made at our annual meeting before mentioned, of officers of the society for the present year, which was as follows, viz. — President, James Allison, Esquire; as Vice Presidents, Messrs. Samuel L. Allison and James Newcomb; as Recording Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. C. H. Rand, and as Corresponding Secretary, your obedient servant,

J. W. WHIDDEN.

To John Young, Esq. Sec. Prov. Ag. Soc'y.

Horton, January 28th, 1826.

DEAR SIR,

I beg leave to acknowledge yours of the 27th of December last and in return state for your information, that a meeting of our Agricultural Society was forthwith convened on the 23rd inst. for the purpose of taking into consideration the state of our local Agriculture as well as answering the several queries proposed by the Central Board, as contained in your letter—at which meeting it appeared that the continuation of an Agricultural establishment was a most desirable object with the society, as will appear from the following answers to the queries proposed :

1st. The society is fully sensible that very many advantages have resulted from the present and late Institutions, with regard to the progress of agriculture, which are almost too numerous for recapitulation. They would however, feel themselves deficient in the present instance, were they to omit observing—that a general excitement had been given towards advancing our Agriculture, by rousing a spirit of emulation and inquiry—that habits of industry have been promoted—and a degree of respectability attached to a calling, on which our provincial welfare must in a great measure depend.

That this society are fully aware that many valuable objects have been obtained by these social institutions; but they anticipate that many more valuable advantages would result from a continuation of the present system and aid of the Legislature. In answer to your fourth query I am instructed by the society to inform you that should Legislative aid be withdrawn, they would still be disposed to assemble for the advancement of their agricultural interests. Yet they are fully aware that the aid of the Legislature has been a special means in cherishing their endeavours; and that a further continuation of their aid would be a most desirable object; and they feel extremely anxious that a further renewal of the Charter be granted by the Legislature.

Yours truly,

E. WOODWORTH, Secretary.

John Young Esq.

Digby, January 30th. 1826.

DEAR SIR,

Under cover you have the answers to the Queries proposed in yours of the 27th. ult. by the Society. On receipt of your letter I lost no time in convening the Members as an individual I wish the Charter may be renewed.

With regard, I remain, your obdt. Servant,

WILLIAM MUIR, Secy. D. A. Society.

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led on the 28th, of January 1866, for the purpose of considering five several queries put by the Secretary of the Central Provincial Society—the following answers were agreed upon.

Answer to the first query.

When this Society was first instituted, there appeared some considerable zeal for its support. Times (to use the ordinary phrase) were then dull, and our settlers earnestly caught at a prospect of rendering their agriculture more profitable. Some few were excited to greater exertion, and other few to try the then recommended experiments.

To the second query.

During the last seven years this District has gradually advanced, upon the old system of clearing the forest, subduing the rough and stumpy fields, raising of buildings, enlarging enclosures &c. It cannot be said that any alteration or improvement has been introduced (worthy of much notice) regarding the breeds of stock, fabrication of implements, of the modes of culture, except by a few, who have pursued the making of Composts, and in general have adopted a better mode of culture than heretofore:—

To the third Query.

Our answer to the foregoing query shews, that many desirable objects are here yet unattained, which Agricultural Societies are designed to promote—and there are difficulties in the way which our Society cannot in the present state of the country remove.

As regards the propriety of continuing the Provincial Society, we beg leave to decline giving any opinion.

To the fifth query.

Our local Agriculture does and will continue to advance, as does the general prosperity of this District, without legislative aid; our lands generally speaking, are of the less productive kind; and our natural means for manuring them very limited; our Farmers sons are called off by the very high wages which ship-builders give to young men capable of handling the axe; and our farmers' teams are much employed in lumbering.

Yet the ready market and high price for every species of farming produce overbalances these drawbacks.—Our planters were never in more thriving circumstances than at present, and never more attached to their possessions and satisfied with the country.

This is not a district likely to be eminently agricultural, but aided by the fisheries and the advantages attending a free and easy intercourse, by water with other countries, it finds various sources of support and supply.

Several members of our society will probably advocate for the purpose of promoting agricultural improvement, whether a vote of public money be passed for us or not.

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Although the genius of our District does not point forcibly to-
wards agriculture, yet, we are aware of the importance of the Art,
and should be sorry to see it languish for the want of reasonable sti-
mulus and practicable encouragement.

To the 5th query

Our answer to the third query precludes our replying to this any
further than by saying that we are sensible of the generous and
patriotic conduct of the Central Society, and grateful for the un-
merited attention with which it has honoured us.

By command,

WM. MUIR, Sec'y, Digby Ag. Soc'y.
Digby, January 28th, 1826.

Antigonish, January 30th, 1826.

DEAR SIR,

We should have replied to the queries annexed to your Circular
Letter of the 27th ultimo, sooner, and would have done it, had it not
been for the fact that our local society is in a manner dissolved;
and we could not of course procure a meeting, and had to consult
with the members individually, in order that we might obtain their
opinion on the subject submitted to us.

Answer to Queries first and second.

During the last seven years, the following improvements have
taken place in this district:—

The plough has superseded the use of the hoe in planting potatoes,
wherever the state of the ground would admit of it. Much more
attention has been paid than formerly to the collection of manures,
and the use of them has become more judicious. The use of lime
as a manure has been introduced, though not generally. The con-
struction of all agricultural implements has been very greatly im-
proved. A great deal more attention is paid than formerly to the
quality of seeds. A strong desire is excited to improve the breed of
cattle and sheep. The rotation system has been introduced, and is
followed by numbers as far as their circumstances will admit of it.—
All the grist mills in the district have been built anew—many new
added, with the addition of a few adapted for making oatmeal and
hulling barley, all on an improved principle. In consequence of
some of the improvements already mentioned, other lands have be-
come much more productive, and the quality of the crops greatly
superior. A great deal more judgment is displayed in the rearing
and managing of all sorts of live stock.

We are decidedly of opinion that the operations of our local So-
cieties, created and directed by the Central Board, have been highly
instrumental in introducing the above improvements; and this
opinion rests on the following facts. First, the changes commenced

immediately after our establishment ; and second, the improvements are most general and complete in those places wherein our influence was greatest.

Query 3d.—All the objects of such institutions are not attained ; and, reasoning on general principles and experience, we think it would be highly advantageous to the country at large to have a constant stimulus given to its agriculture, by the existence of local and rural societies.

Query 4th.—We believe that our local agriculture will continue to advance, whether we receive Legislative aid or otherwise ; but our society will not exist without it. Owing to peculiar causes we cannot be positive that the existence of our local society will be attended with much advantage. The difficulty of arranging any scheme of premiums that could open the prospect of a fair competition to any number of members reduced our members to a few, and these were chiefly such as would exert themselves, independent of any stimulus that might be given by a Legislative grant, and this would probably continue to be the case were the society continued.

Query 5th.—For the good of the country at large, we think it would be proper to apply for a renewal of the charter.

We have the honor to be your obdt. servants,

THOMAS TROTTER,

ROBERT N. HENRY.

To John Young, Esq.

Parrsborough, January 31st, 1826.

Answers to the Queries proposed by the Central Board, Dec. 27, 1825.

1st.—The advantages attained by our local society are, that a spirit of emulation has been diffused, industry and enterprise excited, and agricultural knowledge increased.

2d.—During the last seven years there have been some improvements in agricultural machinery ; ploughing and drilling are better executed ; manure is more highly appreciated ; compost, although heretofore altogether unknown, has been introduced ; lime, though difficult to obtain, is now used for agricultural purposes, and proves very beneficial.

3d.—There are many desirable objects which agricultural societies are calculated to advance that we have not obtained ; and we doubt not but there would be cause of sincere regret should they now cease to exist.

4th.—Should no vote of money be passed, we believe our society might be disposed to associate together for some time, but we fear that so much "dead weight" would lay upon it that it would soon sink into a dormant state unless excited by Legislative aid.

5th.—We are unanimously and decidedly of opinion that it would be for the interest of the country, that agriculture should receive encouragement from the Legislature, and that that can be best effected by a renewal of the charter.

We beg leave to state it as our humble opinion, that the same amount of money laid out on any other object by the Legislature within these seven years past, has not been of equal and permanent advantage to the province, as that for the encouragement of agriculture. Seven years ago agriculture was in the embryo, it has since had its "mewlings and pawkings in its purse's arms," it then crawled, it now stands upright and steps forward, but needs a staff to make it step firm and sure—this we trust it will receive from the Legislature.

By order of the Society,

JAMES JENKS, Secretary.

East River, Pictou, January 31st, 1826.

DEAR SIR,

In compliance with your letter of the 27th ult. I convened our Society on the 24th inst. The forenoon was stormy, and not many members attended. But had they all attended I suppose that our answers to the queries would not have been materially different. We agreed to the following :

1st. In general, agriculture is raised to more esteem and respectability. A farmer is more of a gentleman than formerly.— There is also more activity both of mind and body in promoting agricultural pursuits. The operations of the farmer are directed more by reason and intelligence than formerly, and the folly of our fathers is less attended to.

2nd. Ploughs and harrows are better made, ploughing and harrowing are performed more skillfully and profitably. The value of lime and manure is better known, and the articles are provided with more diligence. The utility of draining is better understood. We have now a few specimens of earthen fences and hedges. More attention is paid to the selection of seeds. We are improving our breed of sheep. Farms are better laid out.

3rd. All the objects which our agricultural society is calculated to advance are far, very far indeed from being obtained, and we think that it would be desirable to continue the Society for some years (perhaps ages) longer.

4th. We believe that our local agriculture will continue to advance though legislative aid should be withdrawn, but that it shall advance more slowly ; and we are suspicious that our members will not continue to meet if no vote of money be past.

5th. We have only a vague idea of the nature of the charter, as being in general for the encouragement of agriculture, but of what improvements it may be susceptible we know not. We do

not even know if the present charter is satisfactory to the central board. But we can say that we wish for a charter well calculated to advance the agriculture of the Province.

These are the best answers we can make at present to the queries consistently with our convictions. A few more particulars might perhaps be added to the list of improvements introduced, but they are only beginning; and were you to view them perhaps you would say they are so small as to be invisible; therefore we have not mentioned them, yet we are sensible they have taken place. The first motions of life are slow and feeble. Time is requisite to give them quickness and strength, where the best nature is enjoyed; but where it is wanting the progress must be sometimes doubtful, and the growth always stunted. Such is our society, and such the agriculture of our river. Surely it needs not be questioned that the agriculture of this province both needs and deserves the encouragement of the Legislature.

I remain, dear Sir, ever yours affectionately,

JAMES MACGREGOR.

St. Mary's, January 31st, 1826.

DEAR SIR,

Your Letter of the 27th December was laid before the St. Mary's Agricultural Society on the 30th inst. at their first meeting since it was received—The several queries contained therein were taken into consideration, and I am directed to state to you the result of their opinions as taken relative to them, which I shall endeavour to do as briefly as possible.

As respects the advantages which have arisen to our Agriculture from the influence and operation of the Provincial Agricultural Society and our own local Society, they may not be so conspicuous as in most other parts of the Province. The settlement of St. Mary's is at present at best only in an infant state; of course Agriculture must in some measure be retarded by the natural obstructions attending the converting of a wilderness into well cultivated fields. It is now only about eighteen months since the formation of the St. Mary's Agricultural Society, in consequence of which we have not experienced all the advantages which have naturally resulted from the formation of the Provincial Society since 1819. But we are happy to have it in our power to state that a considerable degree of enterprise seems to prevail among our farmers, and a desire for improving the breed of their cattle; and their farms are managed with greater neatness, and in a more systematical manner—Which we attribute chiefly to the influence of Agricultural instruction, and to the more general diffusion of Agricultural knowledge. The improvements which have been made in this Township during the last seven years are very considerable: hundreds of acres

which in 1819 composed a part of the trackless wilderness, are now under cultivation, yielding food for the support of Man and domestic animals. A considerable attention is now paid to saving and composting manures, and in some few instances the draining of wet lands has been effected. —Owing to these improvements, a much more general supply, both of grain and vegetables is raised in this Township now than formerly.

Although we feel a satisfaction in witnessing these progressive improvements, we are sensible that our agriculture is only in its infancy, and that we are merely beginning to experience the benefits resulting from the united efforts of the Agricultural Societies, —and that it is still necessary to make use of every exertion and every stimulant to bring about an improved state of Agriculture. We consider the existence of these Societies, if conducted with energy, as the most effectual means of keeping up that spirit, emulation and enterprise, which is already begun among the Farming classes.

In reply to your 4th query I am directed to say, that our Agriculture may continue to advance if Legislative aid should be withdrawn, and our Local Society may continue to exist for some time; but we are of opinion that an improved state of Agriculture will be brought about much sooner under the eye and patronage of Government.

The rapid improvements which have been made, are in a great measure owing to the formation of the Provincial society, and to their great exertions, by which means the Farming Interest has been brought into notice and placed on a respectable footing. Although much has been done, much still remains to do. The Province is in part dependant for the necessaries of life, and until our independence is effected in regard to those common necessities the great work is incomplete: we therefore sincerely hope that the Legislature will not lose sight of an object which is of the first importance to the Country, and in case application should be made, may the charter be renewed and Patronized in such way and manner as the Legislature may think proper.

I remain, dear Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM BENT, Secretary.

Gay's River, February 4th, 1826.

DEAR SIR,

We received yours dated the 27th December last, and agreeable to your request our society was called; when the sense of it respecting your Queries was taken, which is as follows:—
1st and 2d—There have been improvements of a considerable extent; ploughing is executed on a much better principle, owing to

the importation of three of Morton's and three of Bolton's iron ploughs, some of Small's, and others of modern construction, together with drill ploughs and harrows of various descriptions appropriate to our soil. Manures of late years have been particularly attended to; lime has been but sparingly used, though with the utmost success. Our grains too have undergone a favorable change; stock has been improved, and sheep in quantity and in quality.

3d—The objects that such institutions are calculated to advance are by no means already attained, and it would be advisable to continue the existence of the societies for some years longer, provided suitable measures were used to detect fraud in the local societies, and introduce modern agricultural intelligence through the medium of libraries, that the members might act from theory as well as practice.

4th—It appears to us that our society will not meet for agricultural purposes if Legislative aid be withdrawn.

5th—We consider therefore according to our views, that it will be for the interest of the country, that application be made for a renewal of the charter at the first meeting of the Legislature.

I am, dear Sir, yours respectfully,

By order of the President and Committee,

GEORGE GRASSIE, Secretary.

Guyborough, February 6th, 1826.

Answers to several queries from the secretary of the Central Board of Agriculture to the Guyborough and Manchester Agricultural Society.

1st. Although the advantages that have resulted to the local Agriculture of this District from the influence and operations of the Society, are small in comparison with those of other Districts, where the undivided attention of the inhabitants has been devoted to Agricultural pursuits; yet the following may be justly said to have been in a great measure owing to the above causes, viz.—an improved breed of black cattle and Hogs. The introduction of better seed grains, particularly oats—and a general conviction of the advantage arising therefrom.—The erection of Oat Mills, and an increasing sentiment in favour of Oat-meal, as a substitute for wheat flour and Indian-meal. A knowledge founded upon actual and repeated trials of the value of Lime as a manure for our soil. And it is confidently anticipated that these advantages will at all events prove permanently beneficial.

2nd. Summer Fallow and the cultivation of turnips, by the drill system have been introduced into our system of Agriculture, and encouraged by premiums but have not succeeded. The cultiva-

tion of potatoes, in that way, is becoming pretty general and has been successfully encouraged by the society. — These with the use of Lime, as manure, by a few individuals, are the only improvements that may be said to have been introduced since the formation of the society.

3d. But few of the objects which Agricultural Societies are calculated to advance, have yet been attained in this District; and were the Society continued for some years longer, it would be the means of extending the improvements already introduced and of introducing others.

4th. It is not probable that our local Agriculture will continue to advance if Legislative aid be withdrawn; or that our members would be disposed to associate for Agricultural purposes without such aid.

5th. From our own experience, and from what we have seen of the advantages of Agricultural Societies, in other Districts, we consider that a renewal of the Society's Charter will be of General benefit to the Province.

ROBERT HARTSHORNE, *Pres.*
WENTWORTH TAYLOR, *Secry.*

Douglas, February 10th, 1826.

DEAR SIR,

I beg to inform you that Richard Smith, Esq. a member of the East Hants Society, has made great improvements in different branches of agriculture, since the publication of Agricola's letters, particularly in the application of lime to his dyked marsh; the good effect of which has been a matter of great astonishment to many that ridiculed that method of improvement, who are now making great preparations to follow his example. He has applied this fossil at the rate of 200 bushels per acre, and the marsh which was before nearly unproductive, showed such fertility as to yield good oats and afterwards hay. A kiln has since been constructed by him; and his neighbours, seeing the benefit, are preparing also to apply lime.

He has likewise followed your plan in the construction of his barn, with proper conductors placed under his stables to carry the urine of the cattle to a well-constructed reservoir made to receive it, which he keeps filled with earth or mud (taken from a black-ash swamp) until it is sufficiently enriched, when it is removed to make room for a fresh supply of earth; and by following those plans he has got both his upland and marsh in complete order, yielding such crops, the description of which is almost incredible.

He has for some years past turned his attention to the improvement of his stock, particularly swine.

About four years ago I let him have a sow pig of the Hampshire breed, from which he has raised some of the finest pigs I have seen; one of which for size, shape, and fatness, excels any that I have heard of in these provinces: and in order to show you and the other members of the Central Board, part of the improvements of our society, and to make sale of the pig, my son intends sending him to town next week.

I remain, dear sir, your most obdt. servant,

W. SMITH, Pres. E. H. Ag. Soc'y.

To John Young, Esq.

Liverpool, February 10th, 1826.

DEAR SIR,

Your Circular dated Dec. 27th, 1825, I duly received, and would have answered it sooner, but wished to obtain the opinion of the members residing in the agricultural part of the district. I beg leave now to communicate to you the sense of a meeting of our society held on the 6th inst. with respect to the Queries proposed to us by the Central Board.

Our society are clearly of opinion that many and great advantages have accrued to our local agriculture from the establishment and continued operation of the institution, aided by grants from the province; especially, as it has raised a spirit of emulation among the farmers, which has been one of the grand means of bringing about the improvements that have undoubtedly taken place in this county within the last seven years. Perhaps there is no county or district in the province possessing so few natural advantages as this; its progress towards improvement must therefore necessarily be gradual and slow; among the improvements which have been introduced, may be mentioned the following—many acres of land have been brought under cultivation which previous to that time were nothing but a wilderness; from this land brought into an arable state have been raised excellent crops both white and green, as also abundance of hay and grass for the rearing of stock. Many other improvements might be mentioned were it necessary, but the foregoing, it is presumed, may serve as a sufficient answer to the two first Queries. In answer to the 3d, it is the opinion of our society, that in this county, at least, all the benefits which naturally flow from such institutions, are not yet obtained, and that it would be very desirable to have them continued, at least for a few years longer.

Although we are of opinion that our local agriculture might advance without Legislative aid, yet we are confident at the same time that it would not advance so rapidly if that assistance was withheld. As an answer to the latter part of query 4th, we may state that we have not had a meeting of our society for nearly a year till the present. The reply to the last naturally follows from what we have said on the former, that we are unanimously of opinion it is for the interest of the country, that application be made for a renewal of the charter, and we earnestly hope the Legislature will see it to be for the public good to grant it.

I am, dear sir, yours sincerely,

DAVID GRIEVE, Secretary.

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